

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Rathenow

614872

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

10 March 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES

2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. On 19 February, the Kraftfahrer Kaserne (5443) in Rathenow quartered about 300 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery insignia. Between 9:30 and 10:30 p.m. on 17 February, motor vehicles moved out of the installation. On 18 and 19 February, the troops engaged in driving-school practice. Motor vehicles were identified in traffic to and from the installation. 25X1

2. On 19 February, the Pionier Kaserne (5442) was occupied by about 150 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery insignia. No motor vehicles were seen.

3. On 19 February, the Infanterie Kaserne (5441) quartered about 200 soldiers. Sentries wore red-bordered black epaulets. Troops also moved out of the installation on 17 February. Motor vehicles were identified at the installation. 25X1

4. While the units moved out of the Wald Kasernes during the night of 17 February, all approach roads to the roads where the troops passed were blocked. No details could be obtained on the Ziethen Kaserne.

5. On 20 February, the Ziethen Kaserne (5444) was occupied. On 25 January, a telephone section of 12 soldiers entered the installation from the direction of municipal forest. On 27 January, another section of 8 soldiers with red-white surveying rods left the installation. On 11 February, 12 soldiers with surveying equipment and, on 12 February, about 16 soldiers with spades, entered the installation from the wooded area south of Rathenow. At about 11:30 a.m. on 20 February, truck loaded with fresh bed-linen entered the installation. 25X1

6. On 19 February, at about 8 p.m., an empty train of 1 boxcar and 20 flatcars, guarded by two men, stood on Nordbahnhof.

7. On 18 and 19 February, the Infanterie Kaserne was about 50 percent lighted at dusk and the Pionier Kaserne and the Kraftfahrer Kaserne were almost 50 percent lighted. At about 8:30 p.m. on 17 February, several columns of trucks, including some towing 122-mm. howitzers and 132-mm. rocket launchers, moved out of the three barracks installations, heading toward Premnitz. Observation was made difficult by a large number of patrols of MP. the noise of columns was heard throughout the night until about 5 a.m.

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25X1

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

SECRET

- 2 -

8. Between 25 January and 17 February, driver school trucks [redacted] were seen at practice in town almost daily. At about 1 and 5 p.m. on 12 February, truck [redacted] loaded with 8 to 10 boxes entered the Zietzen Kaserne from the direction of Neue Schleuse. Motor vehicles [redacted] were seen in traffic in town during the first half of February. [redacted]

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Comment. Report confirms the departure on 17 February of the troops from the three barracks installations, as had previously been reported [redacted]. Reference report indicated that only units of the 18th How Arty Brig [redacted] were identified. It seems, however, that, according to the weapons and observations made at the Infanterie Kaserne, elements of the 65th Mort Brig [redacted] and 25th Gds RL Brig also departed. It is possible that these units transferred to Altenradow for firing practice. [redacted] this year, too, large field exercises will be conducted [redacted] as had already been practiced during the Eighth Gds Army maneuvers in the fall of 1953.

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